



MARCH 2010

IWD says 'Count Me In'

It's hard to believe that we started our planning in August 2009 for the IWD, with the Committee initially meeting monthly, then weekly, and most recently twice a week. It is this level of planning that makes the celebration such a success. It is also this level of commitment within Committee members that needs to be recognized. So a huge Thank You to Melody, Sandii, Robyn, Carole, and Michelle for all the time and effort put in. Thanks, also, to Annie for being MC on the day, and sharing her inimitable style.

Thanks should also go to the Club members for all their support - selling tickets, ironing chair covers, bringing raffle prizes, donating auction items, and so on. It is a real team effort. On the day everyone said, and sang, 'Count Me In'. **Robyn**



Left: The speakers - Robyn (President), Annie (MC) & guest speakers Pru Goward & Nina Wilson



Right: The committee - Robyn, Carole, Sandii, Melody & Michelle

Education Bursary gets underway

Plans are underway for this year's Education Bursary, with advertisements in local papers, local school newsletters and application forms available through local high schools and TAFE. This year the bursary is \$800. Applications close March 12th and the contact is Sharon Rudinski on 0408715527.

Interviews will be held by the end of March with the winner announced prior to Easter. If any members know someone who is eligible please have them contact Sharon ASAP. **Noelene**

Reef Talk | March 2010

Area Conference in Ayr

2010 Area 5 Workshop

Hosted by Burdekin Zonta Club

17th - 18th April, 2010

Accommodation: The Tropical City Motor Inn, Macmillan Street, Ayr

Travel Arrangements: Car Pooling

RSVP: Sandii: 0429 480726

Email: famhans2@bigpond.net.au



This is the perfect chance to network with fellow Zontians by attending the Area 5 conference in Ayr. To allow for booking of accommodation please register ASAP! Can I count you in? **Sandii**



YWPA has a worthy winner



L-R: Kerry, Emma Watson, holding her award & Wendy

Emma Watson of Strathdickie is one very busy young lady including a very full year 12 at Proserpine State High School, during which time she achieved many accolades for her academic and music commitments, including an OP2 score. During this busy year Emma also found time to submit an application to YWPA and has been awarded first place in the Whitsundays region, with an almost perfect score for our club. She was presented with a cheque for \$500 to assist her with her future goals and her application will now be judged at the state level. We wish her well.

Emma is now preparing to commence her first semester in Environmental Management (Sustainable Development) at the University of Qld and includes, in addition to this degree, her personal goals: "to join one of the student clubs that deal with humanitarian work, and continue with the fundraising efforts that I previously been involved in. I intend to first gain experience before volunteering for an International Organisation such as Amnesty International of the United Nations, so as to help others gain the quality of life that everyone deserves, and to give women and children a chance at a brighter future".

Emma has been a regular contributor to Zonta fundraising and service projects over the past 2 years and has been guest speaker at a recent meeting.

Wendy

Healthy Lifestyle Expo twitter

The Whitsunday Healthy Lifestyle Committee is well underway with the organization of the Sept 11th Expo at the PCYC and our dinner function on the 10th at Coral Sea Resort. The project proposal has now been approved by the board. Our very exciting news is that we have secured not just one, but three fantastic speakers for the dinner function. Cindy O'Meara, who wowed us last year with her nutritional advice, is being joined this year by the very dynamic Kim Morrison and Fleur Whelligan, co-authors of the wonderful book "Like Chocolate for Women". If you haven't read this book yet, you must!! Their catch phrase "Self Care is not selfish – it's essential" will be the theme of their talks and we can look forward to their advice on looking after ourselves from head to toe – our mental, physical and emotional well being as well as insights into positive relationships. They will also be delivering lectures and selling their aromatherapy products and books at the Expo. Stay tuned for more expo news next month.



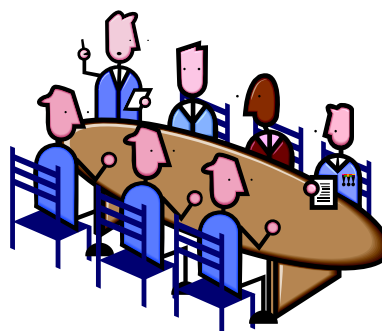
Roz

Nominating Committee meets again

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Suzie, Carole, Joan and Cath, are putting together a plan of action for the AGM, which will be held in May. They will be advertising Board vacancies in the next month and calling for nominations. At the AGM, the Committee will conduct the elections of Office Bearers.

The Committee will also be organizing the Changeover Dinner to be held in June. This might seem like a long way off but venue bookings will need to be done soon. So anyone with ideas should talk to any of the Committee members.

Robyn





New Member: Dawn Green

Our newest member, Dawn Green, was inducted in February. Dawn is a retired bank manager, originally from Sydney. We give her a warm welcome to our club.

L-R: Robyn (President) Carole (Sponsor) Dawn Green, Sue (Chair Membership)



UN Committee up and running

This committee met on Tuesday 23rd and elected a new chairperson – Guus Hermans. Guus has attended 2 International Conferences – Melbourne and Rotterdam – and is very interested in UN affairs, so we could be in for a busy time ahead. Several topics were discussed with the idea of short talks to members at our meetings, as well as organising breakfast talks. **If any members know of someone in our community who has an interesting story to tell – eg. where they have lived or visited overseas and the problems there – Guus would be interested to hear from you.** To celebrate International Day of Action for Women’s Health on 28th May, a short talk will be given at a future meeting.

Noelene

Omission from February “Reef Talk” Women Leave Smaller Carbon Footprints

You would remember this very interesting article from last month’s newsletter. The editors wish to apologise for the omission of the author’s name. It was submitted by Janet Kepcke.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

What an active start to this year. After our media acknowledgement of the achievements of Amelia Earhart, the Planning Day and our inspiring Film Night followed in late January. We then headed into February with the Clothes and Book Swap - a fellowship and financial success - and got started on the Education Bursary. Meanwhile, our worthy winner of the YWPA Award, Emma Watson, was announced and the Healthy Lifestyle Expo Committee started to twitter its extensive plans. Then the Nominating Committee and the UN Committee held their first meetings for the year in order to get their programs underway.

Of course the IWD Committee continued on its path of putting together a fabulous celebration for 7th March. The work of the Membership Committee has resulted in 2 new members this year, Dawn Green inducted in February, and Margaret Larsson to be inducted this month. In addition, plans are underway to have a group attend the Area Conference in April along with participation in the Relay for Life. The Garden Group is meeting with the Christian College to start a new garden project and there are talks underway of a new community partnership.

In March we have an invitation to attend the Combined Services Dinner, and the commencement of the JMK Awards, in which Kirby Amos was such a star last year. As they say, we live in interesting times!

But with all this activity we mustn’t forget the welfare of our most precious resource – our members. This month our hearts and thoughts have gone out to Pam whose world has been turned upside down with her suddenly diagnosed condition. Everyone is sending their blessings and best wishes for a speedy recovery. It’s times like this that one realizes the important things in life and how those things must be cherished. Pam, our thoughts are with you.

Robyn

4 Zonta Club of the Whitsundays - member of Zonta International

Clothes swap both fun and profitable

Saturday 13th February saw 22 women loose on Kerry's verandah with lots of clothes for sale. It wasn't quite like Myers on Boxing Day, and I didn't see any tug-of-wars with clothes, but I'm sure everyone enjoyed themselves just as much.

Over \$290 was raised through sales, but more importantly it was a wonderful day for fellowship and there were lots of laughs and good fun.

A big thank you must go to Kerry our hostess, who had no idea what she was getting into when she offered her house. In between making sure everyone was happy, she kept changing clothes as yet another "bargain" appeared in her size. Also we must give Rob a big vote of thanks as the way the verandah was set up with racks for the clothes was great, making everything so easy to see. The two of them had put in many hours work before the event and it showed – thank you very much!

The leftover clothes were picked up by the Neighbourhood Centre for their Op-Shop.

Noelene



Garden Group at Christian College

On Monday 22nd February Judy Brown, Dawn Green, Angela Spicer and Noelene Helman attended the Whitsunday Christian College and met Roger Willcocks, the Middle School Master, who is very keen for the school to participate in the garden project. We looked at prospective sites and he is to give us some details about shade/sun on two of the sites before we make the final decision. Two classes will be involved and the project will be done in conjunction with the cooking classes at the school, when the produce grown will be used. It is a very exciting concept for us all to be involved with. A project proposal has been prepared and the garden beds have been ordered from Parnells.

On Tuesday 23rd Feb, Judy and Noelene went to St Catherine's School to present the plaque from the Australian Gardens Scheme. Judy made the presentation and thanked the school and children who participated in the garden project. Two new classes will be involved this year so we look forward to hearing how they are going later in the year.

Noelene



RELAY FOR LIFE NEWS

The number of positive reactions at the last meeting as well as by emails, after my plea for participating in this year's "Relay for Life", was overwhelming. This, again, is a demonstration from Zonta members that when we do it we do it well. The dress code is the swinging sixties, flower power, the Beatles, etc. Our goal is to raise \$1500.00. The first \$100.00, I have donated already. Please ask those who don't want to participate physically to donate any amount. Participation is not only about money. It is also about supporting survivors and being able to support science. It will be important that many members and friends be at the Showground in Proserpine at 2.45 pm until the candlelight ceremony at approx. 7.00 pm on Saturday April 17th. I kindly ask each participant to register now directly on: www.relayforlife.org.au

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Cancer does not sleep but you are certainly not required to spend the night. Those that have done so in the past know what fun it is and how rewarding watching all the other walkers, and enjoying a very bright entertainment program and a free breakfast the next morning before hurrying home for ... a shower. Tot ziens – See you!

Guus



Combined Service Clubs' Dinner

22 March 2010
Waterline on Shingley
6.30pm for 7.30pm
Cost: \$35
(Includes two course dinner)

Guest Speakers

Col Mackereth and Cathy Lengyel from the North Queensland Spinal Injuries Association

The Rotary Club of Airlie Beach is hosting the Combined Service Clubs' dinner this year.

Please contact Suzie Beirne on 0418758389 & pay by **Friday 12 March 2010**. As it is now past that date at time of publication of this newsletter, do contact Suzie ASAP if you are interested in going.

Follow-up to Planning Day

No, not just a talk-fest but lots of new ideas are being worked on:

- Celebrity chef ideas are being re-searched by Annie
- Noelene has proposed a Yellow Rose garden in our planned community Botanical Garden
- Newspaper clippings on Good News day are being collated
- Community raffle tickets have been distributed through Wendy
- Roz is working on criteria for a High Flyer Award.

All this, and more to come, will be factored into our budget preparation so that we can financially support innovative and relevant Project Proposals.

Robyn

"MOOLAADE" FILM EVENING

HELD ON 28TH JANUARY, THIS WAS A GREAT SUCCESS - A MOVING, YET HOPEFUL FILM.

A REPORT ON THE NIGHT BE WILL PUBLISHED IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER.



DATE CLAIMERS

- 18 March – General meeting
- 22 March – Combined Services Dinner
- 7 April – Board meeting
- 17-18 April – Relay for Life
- 17-18 April – Area Conference (Ayr)
- 10 & 11 September – Healthy Lifestyle Expo

Zonta Club of the Whitsundays: Contact Details

President - Robyn Mitchell (07) 4948 2445: rjmitchell4@bigpond.com

Vice President - Sandii Hansen: famhans2@bigpond.net.au

Secretary – Noelene Helman: helmans@bigpond.com

Treasurer – Catherine Moscato: catherinemoscato@hotmail.com

Reef Talk Editors – P.J. Halter/Eunice Shearer: Zontaclub7@hotmail.com

PO BOX 427, Cannonvale, Queensland. 4802.



Photos from the IWDB, 7th March 2010

1



2



3



4



5



6



Key to photos (names from left to right)

1. Guest speaker: Pru Goward at the podium
2. The song: Belting out "Count Me In"
3. Annie & Melody raise money with joy
4. The guests from WCCS & Centrelink
5. Judy, Dawn & Sandii with "Zonta" spelled out in drinking glasses
6. Guest speaker Nina Wilson (centre) with mum Jill (left) & sister Naomi (right)



MEMBER NEWS

Mum & bub Cross & Mum & bub Bourke are not just welcome at our meetings but much loved & pampered.



Joanne at dental triage
At her surgery in Tibet



Pam Harrison reports from Christmas Island "The countdown has started and I finish my contract on Sunday and fly back to Perth Monday. It has been an experience I will never forget despite the 11 hour shifts. I will come away with so many memories and so many new friends. I am presently on my last days off so am doing the last of my exploring, snorkelling, golfing and socialising before my final shifts on this beautiful and amazing volcanic rock in the middle of the Indian Ocean."



Give it a shot and have fun

A number of members have asked me already many times to organize a **GOLF CLINIC**. Although I am not a professional, I have some experience and have learned some tricks which might help you also to improve and enjoy your game. Also if you want to find out whether golf might become your sport too, welcome. All you need is: a sand-iron and a 9-iron and a 7-iron, 12 good well marked balls (not new), solid shoes, and soft drinks. The dates are: Thursdays: 8-15-22-29 April, 7.00 till 8.30 am, Tropic Road corner Duel Road, Cannonvale. Email if you want to participate (hermanskoala@hotmail.com) and mention either Player or Beginner. **Guus**

Eunice visits North China for Chinese New Year celebrations



For 2 weeks in February I visited the homes of 2 of my English-speaking Chinese friends, to celebrate New Year. Their villages are near the cities of Louyang & Anyang. Cold & snowy.



Me with one of my host families on New Year's Day, 14th February. Friend Lee in top row, 3rd from left. We were visiting his father's family that day, as is the tradition. I was guest-of-honour.

Continued next page



MEMBER NEWS: EUNICE'S NORTH CHINA VISIT (from p7)



New Year preparations. Lee & his father hanging “couplets” on doors of all rooms in the house (even the loo) wishing good luck in the coming year. Superstition & respect for ancestors dominates their traditions.



Villagers passing the time & undoubtedly talking about me, the first foreigner to visit their village. Most all dress the same and try to look and act the same. Exceptions are regarded with suspicion. Women work hard, men do a lot of sitting around.



My friend's nephew's wedding. He is aged 20 and his bride is 19. His family, anxious for him to get married and settle down, found a local “matchmaker” who introduced them. They will live in his father's house, as is the local custom.



Me with a village woman my age. My eyes, skin, hair and *especially* my teeth all fascinated them. Their teeth, almost without exception, were yellow, decayed and broken. Oh Joanne, lots of work for you here!



Wherever I went I soon became surrounded by crowds, curious as to who, why & how old? This young girl took the opportunity to have a 10 minute English conversation with me as her only English teachers are Chinese.



Above their bridal bed hang these pictures, one of 2 baby boys (naked from the waist down) and one of 2 baby girls. Nearby are the words “We hope you have a happy marriage and soon produce babies”. Boy babies are preferred and no secret is made of this,